

REMARKS

As requested, the specification has been reviewed. No changes are believed to be necessary.

Claims 6, 13, 19 and 24 were rejected as unpatentable over BRASK et al. 6,855,639 in view of CHRISTENSON et al. 6,835,667. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The present application claims priority from Japanese application 2002-303631 filed October 17, 2002. This claim to priority has been perfected by filing a verified English translation of this priority application. BRASK et al. was filed on August 1, 2003, a date that is after the October 17, 2002 priority date of the present application. Accordingly, BRASK et al. is no longer available as a reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 31-33 have been added and are allowable at least because of their dependency from claim 6. Claim 31 is based on the description of claim 5. Claim 32 is based on the description related to Figure 3D. Claim 33 is based on the description related to Figures 4A to 4B.

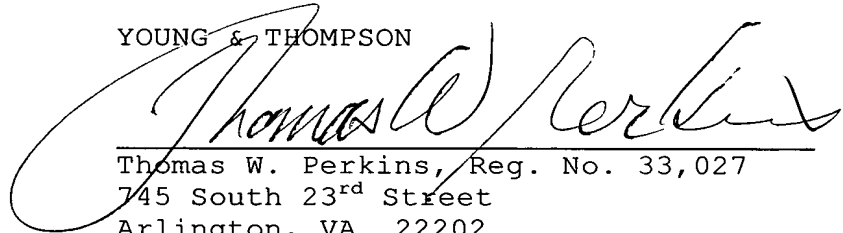
Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-18, 20-23, and 25-30 have been canceled to place the present application in condition for allowance but may be made the subject of one or more further applications.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over a horizontal line.

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TWP/lk



Application No. 10/685,571
Docket No. 8070-1003

Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- a verified English translation of priority Japanese application 2002-303631 filed October 17, 2002.